

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SAJ-01 PRS-01 PA-04 INR-10 DRC-01

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R 071424Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708

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USIA FOR ICS/E, IEE

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OEXC UR
SUBJ: EXHIBITS: OREC DISTRIBUTION AMERIKA ISSUE NO. 188

REF: STATE 044295

1. SUMMARY: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PINS DISTRIBUTION INTERDICTION TO "ZIONIST" ARTICLE WHICH ALLEGEDLY OBJECTED TO BY LOCAL CITIZENS. WHILE NECESSARILY COMPLYING WITH ORDER, EMBASSY PLANS LETTER PROTEST TO CHAMBER. END SUMMARY.
2. DISTRIBUTION AMERIKA ISSUE 188 WAS BEGUN KISHINEV MORNING FEB. 25. APPROXIMATELY 1,000 COPIES DISTRIBUTED.
3. AFTERNOON SAME DAY CHAMBER AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE KUZMENKO INFORMED OREC DIRECTOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION THIS ISSUE DISAPPROVED MOSCOW CHAMBER HEADQUARTERS. NO FURTHER EXPLANATION. NO INDICATION OFFERED AT THAT TIME THAT LOCAL SENSITIVITIES IN ANY WAY INVOLVED.
4. EMBASSY INFORMED OF DECISION BY EXHIBIT MANAGEMENT AND REQUESTED MEETING WITH CHAMBER OFFICIALS MOSCOW. EMBASSY EXHIBIT LIAISON OFFICER RECEIVED BY E.M. BARTOSHEVICH, CHAMBER OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN PUBLICATIONS CLEARANCE, ON MARCH 5.

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5. EMBOFF STATED EMBASSY CONCERN OVER NOT BEING INFORMED

BY CHAMBER ABOUT DECISION TO PROHIBIT DISTRIBUTION ISSUE 188, AND THAT NO EXPLANATION FOR ACTION HAD BEEN OFFERED, EITHER TO EXHIBIT MANAGEMENT OR TO EMBASSY. EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION ON SUCH MATTERS IN FUTURE. NOTE: RELEVANT CONTRACT PROVISION SPECIFIES ONLY THAT PRINTED MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR CHAMBER APPROVAL IN ADVANCE, WHICH WAS DONE IN THIS CASE UNDER COVER HOFFMANN/DUZMENKO LETTER, APRIL 13, 1973. PROVISION CONTAINS NO WORDING CONCERNING CHAMBER REFUSAL TO APPROVE GIVEN ITEMS. CHAMBER THEREFORE PRESUMABLY CONTRACTUALLY FREE TO DISAPPROVE ANY ITEMS FOR ANY REASON AT ANY TIME.

6. BARTOSHEVICH CONCURRED PRIOR CONSULTATION ADVISABLE AND AGREED TO DO SO IN FUTURE. STATED THAT CHAMBER DECISION BASED ON PROTEST MADE BY DELEGATION LOCAL CITIZENS IN KISHINEV OBJECTING TO CONTENTS OF 188. SAID THAT ISSUE CONTAINED NOTHING PERTINENT TO EXHIBIT WHILE ONE ARTICLE VERY OBJECTIONABLE, PIECE ON JEWS IN AMERICA WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "ZIONIST." WENT ON TO ATTACK ARTICLE, WHICH HE SAID WAS "DAMAGING TO RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." HIS CRITICISM GENERAL IN NATURE, MADE REFERENCE TO NO SPECIFIC PASSAGE. NOTE: EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE SINCE REVIEWED ARTICLE IN DETAIL AND FIND NOTHING WHICH SHOULD BE OFFENSIVE TO SOVIET READERSHIP. ARTICLE CONCERNS JEWS IN U.S. ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AND CONTAINS NO REFERENCE TO SOVIET UNION.

7. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER CHAMBER OBJECTIONS AT THIS DATE SINCE ISSUE HAD BEEN SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL MANY MONTHS AGO AND SINCE COPIES HAD ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN AT LEAST TWO PREVIOUS EXHIBIT CITIES. ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MAGAZINE CONTAINED ONE ARTICLE ON U.S. NATIONAL PARKS WHICH WAS VERY RELEVANT TO EXHIBIT CONTENTS, A LARGE PORTION OF WHICH CONCERN THE U.S. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

8. BARTOSHEVICH REPLIED THAT PARK ARTICLE WAS "DROWNED" BY REST OF CONTENTS. DID NOT REPLY TO POINT THAT CHAMBER HAD NOT OBJECTED TO MAGAZINE'S DISTRIBUTION BEFORE KISHINEV.

9. EMBASSY BELIEVES WOULD BE FRUITLESS TO PURSUE FURTHER QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTION THIS ISSUE AMERIKA. HOWEVER, EMBASSY PLANS SEND LETTER TO CHAMBER'S OGANESYAN DEPLOTING LACK OF CONSULTATION AND SCORING ACTION GENERALLY AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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